

AMERICA NEEDS A REAL ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome all my colleagues back to Washington, D.C. It is obvious that spring is here and that summer is just around the corner; and soon no doubt air conditioners will be going full force and the energy crisis that has gripped the West will only get worse.

Nevadans are well aware of the energy crisis which has overcome one of our neighbors, California. First there were rolling blackouts, now massive rate hikes, up to 46 percent for some 10 million homes and businesses.

As Californians work to solve its energy problems, this Congress must address the energy crisis looming over our entire Nation. For too long the U.S. has operated without a responsible energy policy, and now Americans are beginning to pay the price. We need a responsible and reliable energy policy. Let us face it, Mr. Speaker, in the 21st century we expect the lights to go on and the air conditioning to work without fail. We must address the rolling blackouts, rate hikes, and consumer aggravation; and we must establish a real energy policy that meets the needs of modern America.

TUBERCULOSIS IS SPREADING RAPIDLY THROUGH THE DEVELOPING WORLD

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the threat of tuberculosis is spreading rapidly throughout the developing world, and ultimately in this country.

TB is the greatest infectious killer of adults worldwide. More than one-third of African AIDS victims actually end up, in the end, dying from tuberculosis. 1,100 people a day are dying from tuberculosis in India. It kills 2 million people worldwide per year, one person every 15 seconds.

We have a very small window of opportunity, during which stopping TB would be very cost effective.

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In the developing world, the cost can be as little as \$20; \$20 can save generally a pretty young life. If we wait or go too slowly, more drug-resistant TB will emerge. It costs billions to control with no guarantee of success. Drug-resistant TB is at least 100 times more expensive in developing countries, and is 100 times more expensive in the United States to cure than nondrug-resistant TB.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation to combat TB here and abroad. We have an opportunity to save millions of lives now and prevent millions of needless deaths, not just overseas, but ultimately in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to consider joining several dozen of us as cosponsors in our fight to eliminate tuberculosis.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 641

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 641.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska? There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 428) concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 428

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO).

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to help guarantee this right.

(2) Direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is therefore crucial for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as AIDS.

(3) Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is larger than that of ¾ of the member states already in the World Health Organization (WHO).

(4) Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries, the eradication of such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox, and the plague, and the first to be rid of polio and to provide children with free hepatitis B vaccinations.

(5) The United States Centers for Disease Control and its Taiwan counterpart agencies have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health issues.

(6) In recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness to assist financially and tech-

nically in international aid and health activities supported by the WHO.

(7) On January 14, 2001, an earthquake, registering between 7.6 and 7.9 on the Richter scale, struck El Salvador. In response, the Taiwanese government sent 2 rescue teams, consisting of 90 individuals specializing in firefighting, medicine, and civil engineering. The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs also donated \$200,000 in relief aid to the Salvadoran Government.

(8) The World Health Assembly has allowed observers to participate in the activities of the organization, including the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See in the early 1950's.

(9) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations.

(10) Public Law 106-137 required the Secretary of State to submit a report to the Congress on efforts by the executive branch to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations, in particular the WHO.

(11) In light of all the benefits that Taiwan's participation in the WHO can bring to the state of health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally, Taiwan and its 23,500,000 people should have appropriate and meaningful participation in the WHO.

(b) PLAN.—The Secretary of State shall initiate a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2001 in Geneva, Switzerland, and shall instruct the United States delegation to Geneva to implement that plan.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a written report to the Congress in unclassified form containing the plan required under subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this legislation which would require the administration to initiate a plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization during the May 2001 World Health Assembly meeting in Geneva.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for initiating this resolution. I would like to stress that nothing in this bill implies a change in this country's one China policy, which has been based for over 30 years on three communiques and the Taiwan Relations Act; but care should be taken not to arbitrarily exclude the 23 million people of Taiwan from appropriate economic and humanitarian venues.

This legislation recommends a symbolic step underscoring that where sovereignty is not in question, Taiwan ought to be brought into as many international organizations as possible. It already is a member of the Asian Development Bank, as well as APEC. In this context, WHO is a constructive